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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION BRIEF

IDENTIFICATION OF  
NINE AREAS OF INTEREST  
IN  
VORKUTA/POLYARNYY URAL REGION, USSR



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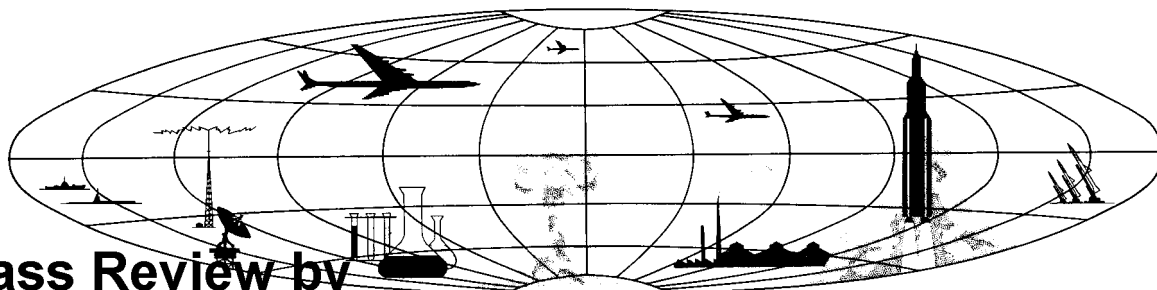


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# IDENTIFICATION OF NINE AREAS OF INTEREST IN VORKUTA/POLYARNYY URAL REGION, USSR

This brief is in response to a request to identify nine specific areas of interest in the Vorkuta/Polyarnyy Ural region of the USSR. Six of these areas (Figure 1, items 1-6) are located along the Kotlas/Salekhard rail line between the stations of Seyda (67-05N 63-05E) and Beregovaya (67-05N 64-20E). The other three (items 7-9) are along an abandoned narrow-gauge rail line between Vorkuta (67-30N 64-00E) and Ust'-Vorkuta (67-05N 63-35E). These areas were covered by [REDACTED] KEYHOLE 25X1D photography of good quality. All areas are identified as former penal labor camps associated with rail construction or maintenance. Details on the nine areas follow:

Item 1. A rectangular area approximately 650 by 550 feet, on the north side of the rail line. The area includes four small probable structures; it appears inactive and possibly abandoned.

Item 2. A square area, approximately 700 feet on a side, on the north side of the rail line. The area appears abandoned and is generally similar to other deserted penal labor construction camps along the railroad.

Item 3. A rectangular area, approximately 750 by 450 feet, on the south side of the rail line. The area appears void of structures and abandoned. Four buildings situated in a line and parallel to the south side of the rail line are located immediately west of the abandoned area and probably constitute Purga railroad station.

Item 4. A borrow pit, possibly served by a rail spur, on the north side of the rail line, and a rectangular area measuring approximately 450 by 350 feet, situated on the south side of the line. The area appears abandoned.

Item 5. An abandoned rectangular area measuring 500 by 450 feet, on the south side of the rail line. Four buildings located in a line on the west edge of the area and parallel to the rail line may constitute a railroad station.

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Item 6. A rectangular area, approximately 1,700 by 700 feet, on the northeast side of the rail line and containing approximately 21 buildings. The area is listed in the railroad schedule 1/ as Beregovaya and is probably a station and maintenance facility for a section of the rail line.

About 2,600 feet east of Beregovaya and connected to it by road is a small square area about 350 feet on a side and apparently fenced. This second area has the appearance of an explosives-storage area and was probably used for this purpose during construction of the rail line. It may still be in use in connection with maintenance of the line.

Item 7. An abandoned labor camp site covering an area of approximately 360,000 square feet, situated at the junction of the abandoned Vorkuta/Ust'-Vorkuta rail line and a road or trail leading east from the Pesets area. Two or three buildings may possibly remain in the area, but no signs of activity are noted.

Item 8. A nearly square area measuring 550 by 500 feet, situated on the west side of the abandoned Vorkuta/Ust'-Vorkuta rail line. No structures are apparent in the area, and it appears abandoned.

Item 9. A rectangular area measuring 500 by 400 feet, situated on the east side of the abandoned Vorkuta/Ust' Vorkuta rail line. No structures are apparent in the area, and it appears abandoned.

25X1D      Photography of [REDACTED] showed the Vorkuta/Polyarnyy Ural region when the ground was snow covered. The rail line to Vorkuta is obviously open and in use. The rail line to Salekhard is just as obviously not open, owing to the snow. The nine areas in question are not visible. This fact lends further emphasis to the conclusion that many of these areas are abandoned, since there seems to be no provision for supplying them during the winter.

In determining the identification of these nine areas, the entire Vorkuta/Polyarnyy Ural region was reviewed and a comprehensive comparison between all-source collateral and photography reaffirms the original and primary function of the overall area to be coal mining and related

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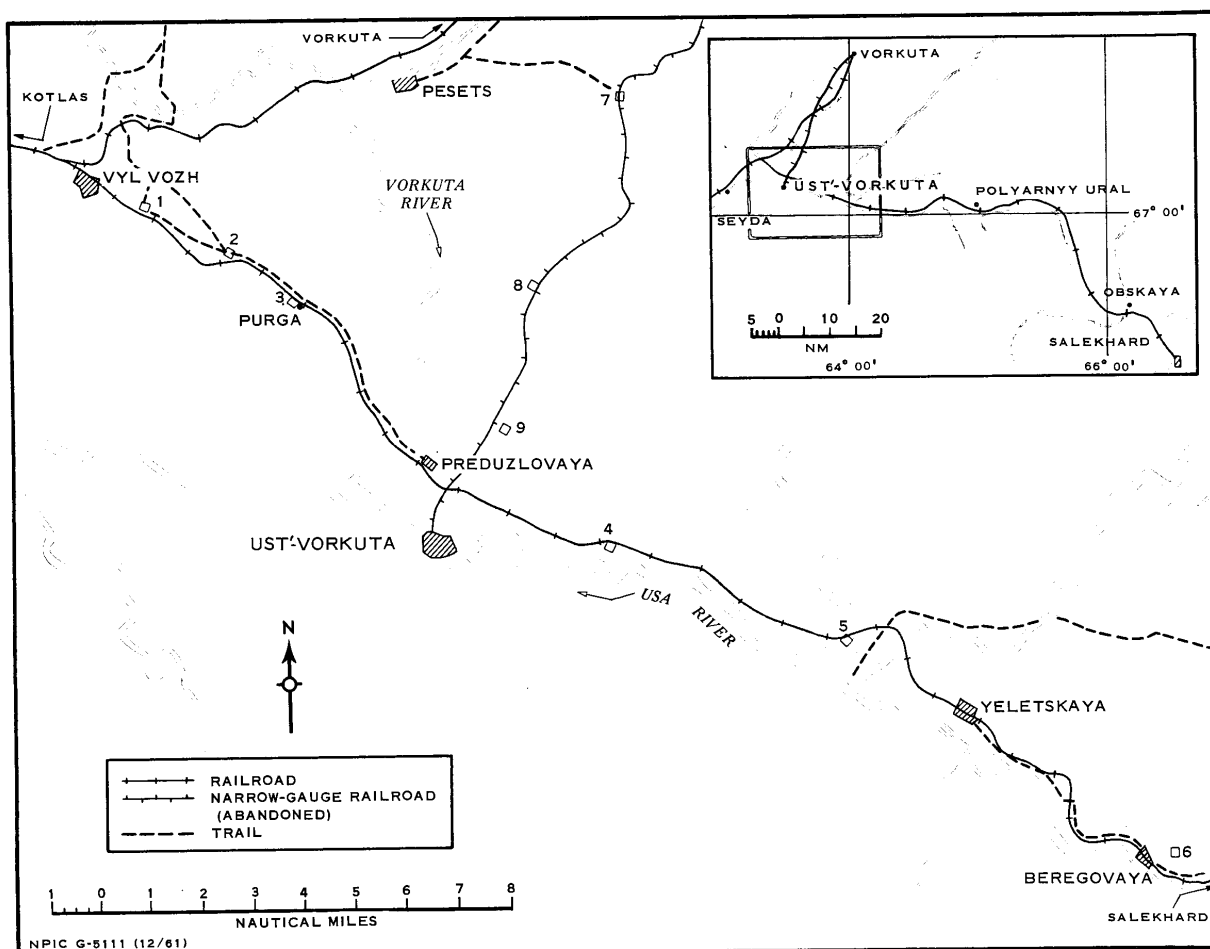


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF NINE AREAS OF INTEREST IN VORKUTA/POLYARNYY URAL REGION, USSR.

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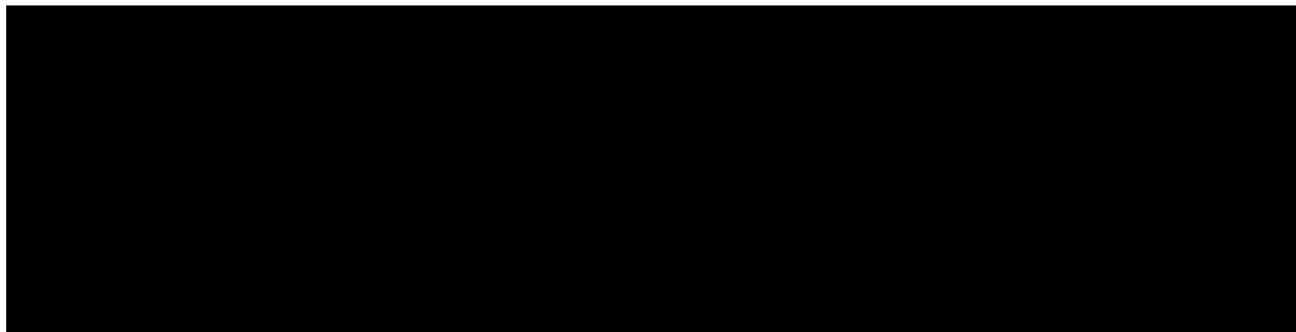
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support. The photography shows these nine areas to be similar to known penal camps in the immediate vicinity of Vorkuta. Such an identification is substantiated by collateral reports that penal camps exist at regular intervals along these rail lines.



#### REFERENCES



#### MAPS AND CHARTS

ACIC. WAC 94 (Ob River Mouth, RSFSR, USSR) 3d ed, Feb 56, scale 1:1,000,000 (U)

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0094-1A, 1st ed, Oct 59, scale 1:200,000 (S)

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0094-6AL, 1st ed, Oct 59, scale 1:200,000 (C)

#### DOCUMENTS

1. CIA. CR 5B, USSR Railroad Stations and Route Information, Apr 61 (C)

#### REQUIREMENT

Air. AFCIN-2/61

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